Met Office director recognised with top award

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Held in Bristol, the awards recognise leaders from a broad range of businesses which play a vital role in stimulating the economy.

Mr Varley was given the Public Sector award. Speaking after the ceremony, he said: "It's great that the Institute of Directors in the South West has recognised the Met Office's work to continually develop our world class weather and climate services, and provide new ways of delivering them to our customers across the globe.

"These not only help protect lives and property here in the UK and around the world, but the information we provide is also being used to help stimulate the economic growth that is so needed in our economy and many others around the world."

Among other winners on the night was Mark Mason, CEO of mobile application developer Mubaloo , who created the Met Office's mobile weather apps - which have been a hugely successful way of connecting people with weather forecasts, whenever they need them, wherever they are.

Sarah Weller, Marketing Manager at Mubaloo, said: "This project is a great example of public and private sectors working together to deliver great public services which support economic growth in many different ways."

Nominations for the awards were open to anyone working at director level at any type of business. The scheme complements the Institute of Directors' UK-wide awards programme and winners from the South West will go forward to the National Director of the Year Awards - with an event taking place in London in the autumn.

Institute of Directors South West chairman Gerry Jones noted: "Business leaders have a vital role to play in the future wealth of the region - and the Institute of Directors is committed to showcasing excellence and celebrating success.

"Our South West Director of the Year Awards highlight outstanding business people across the South West and this year's shortlist was incredibly strong."

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